



**For immediate release**  
November 3, 2009

## Midland Avenue mural sails to completion

**Official Opening by Councillor Michael Thompson**  
**Saturday November 7 at 2 p.m., Shahab Plaza, 1051 Midland Ave.**

**Scarborough** – A Midland Park community watched as a work of art evolved on their plaza wall this fall. Artist Rob Matejka has been a familiar site in the neighbourhood while he worked on his new Midland Avenue mural titled *Sail On and Fair Well*.

Matejka has been lead artist for several years with a youth mural program administered by Mural Routes, a Scarborough arts service organization. After having led a team of students as artist/mentor on their summer mural project, Matejka was pleased to have the opportunity to design and paint a mural based on his own writing. His 12 x 30 foot mural is a symbolic depiction of the human voyage, illustrating a ship being swept by a flow of creatures and natural elements. It has transformed an often illegally tagged wall into an uplifting vision of life's journey.

Matejka painted the mural during September and October with the help of youth artist Jaime Bruno, who was mentored through Mural Routes' summer programs. Student artists Johnny Yang and Maggie Chan volunteered their time and skills to help him complete the mural.

The experience of working daily in the community has been gratifying for Matejka, who enjoyed enthusiastic support of the plaza and store owners. Comments from visitors, neighbours and passing students have been positive. Since starting the mural, Matejka noticed that debris clearing and structural repairs have been undertaken by plaza management.

The new mural is located on the south wall in the Shahab Plaza at 1051 Midland Ave. The community is invited to join Ward 37 Councillor Michael Thompson and Rob Matejka for the opening celebration on **Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 2 p.m.** in front of the mural. Refreshments will be provided by plaza merchants Choice Fish and Chips, Naraine's Bakery and Soca Palace.

*Sail On and Fair Well* is supported by the City of Toronto under the Clean and Beautiful City program for Ward 37, and Graffiti Transformation Program, and is being administered by Mural Routes.

Mural Routes is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the promotion and development of wall art for the benefit of communities and artists. It works with many individuals, volunteers, groups and agencies to achieve its goals. For more information about Mural Routes, see their website at [www.muralroutes.com](http://www.muralroutes.com).

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